Higher Education correspondence programmes for Jail inmates and Defence Forces

3799. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether there are any higher education correspondence programmes running for inmates of jails and Defence Forces;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, then the reasons for not having such programmes for above mentioned persons?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. VALLABHBHAI RAMJIBHAI KATHIRIA) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Indira Gandhi National Open University has established 18 Study Centres in different jails all over the country and 39 Study Centres for Defence and para military personnel. The University has also established recognised Regional Centres for Army, Airforce, Navy and other para military establishments, like Assam Rifles etc.

Women teachers for SSA

3800. SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have asked the State Governments to recruit 60,000 women teachers for its Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) programme;

(b) if so, which are the States earmarked for the implementation of this programme; and

(c) what are the salient features of this programme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN) : (a) The Government has sanctioned 59703 posts of new teachers under

Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan. The State Governments have been advised to recruit at least 50% woman teachers under the programme.

(b) All States and UTs, except Goa, Andaman & Nicobar, Chandigarh, Dadra & Nagar Haveli, Daman & Diu who had not submitted their District Plans for 2002-03, are covered under this Programme.

(c) The Scheme of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan has been launched by the Government to pursue universal elementary education in a mission mode in partnership with States.

The programme is being implemented through State Level Societies, with the funding being shared between the Central Government and the State Government in the ratio of 85:15 in the Ninth Plan, 75 : 25 in the Tenth Plan and 50 : 50 thereafter.

The programme covers the entire country and addresses the needs of 192 million children in 11 lakh habitations. 8.5 lakh existing primary and upper primary school and 33 lakh existing teachers would be covered under the Scheme. The programme seeks to open new schools in habitations which do not have schooling facilities and strengthen existing school infrastructure through provision of additional class rooms, toilets, drinking water, maintenance grant and school improvement grant. Existing schools with inadequate teacher strength would be provided additional teachers under the programme. The capacity of existing teachers would be built by extensive training, provision of grant for developing teaching-learning material and development of academic support structure. SSA has a special focus on girls and children of weaker sections. A number of initiatives, including free textbooks, target these children under the programme. SSA also seeks to provide computer education even in rural areas to bridge the digital divide.

The programme envisages the preparation of District Elementary Education Plans by the States reflecting community based habitation and village level planning. These Plans are appraised by teams constituted for the purpose, including representatives of the State Government. Based on the recommendation of the Appraisal Team, funds are released in terms of SSA norms.